Shortage of explosives in Coal India Limited

611. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the coal mining operations of the country's largest coal producer and supplier, the Coal India Ltd., have been held up due to acute shortage of explosives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the extent to which production of coal has been affected recently; and

(c) the details of short term/long term steps taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of the required explosives to the Coal India mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Due to shortage of explosives in the recent past both coal production and overburden removal have suffered in the mines of Coal India Ltd. While coal production has suffered more in the mines of Central Coalfields Ltd., Eastern Coalfields Ltd. And Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., impact of short supply of explosive has been less in other subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. However, overburden removal has suffered in many mines which will affect coal production in the coming months took.

The main reason of short supply of explosives is inadequate availability of ammonium nitrate, which is the major ingredient of the explosives being used in coal mines.

Due to shortage of explosives, total coal production in Coal India Ltd. has suffered to an extent of about 18 lakhs tones during the last three months.

(c) The details of short term/long term steps taken for uninterrupted supply of explosives to Coal India mines are as under:—

The Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India Ltd. has conducted emergency meetings with the explosive suppliers to maintain regular supply as per Contract and have also taken up the matter with the main Fertilizer Companies in the country for augmenting the allocation of Ammonium Nitrate to the explosive-manufacturers. The matter has also been taken up by Ministry of Coal with the concerned Ministry for augmenting the allocation of Ammonium Nitrate to the explosive sector at the earliest.